

New Jersey Alliance for Culture Change Launched

NJ Wide – New Jersey joins 39 other states in the nation-wide effort to transform traditional long-term care, with the establishment of the New Jersey Alliance for Culture Change. Established in Spring 2012, the purpose of the Alliance is to advance culture change in long-term care settings, such as nursing homes and assisted living communities, throughout the state of New Jersey.

"Creating a culture in which nursing home residents and their caregivers have more of a say in their daily lives will improve the environment of care," said Health and Senior Services Commissioner Mary E. O'Dowd. "The New Jersey Department of Health is proud to be part of this growing national movement and we commend the New Jersey Alliance for Culture Change for making this initiative a reality. We know it will make a tremendous difference in the lives of thousands of New Jersey's older adults."

"Culture change" is defined as the transformation from traditional, institutional practices to person-directed practices where residents' and staff members' opinions are encouraged and respected. This philosophy of person-centered care is encouraged in both long and short-term living environments as well as community-based settings, where those receiving care, and their caregivers, are able to be part of the decisions that affect their daily lives.

"As an advocate for all older individuals living in New Jersey's long-term care communities, we see first-hand the need for care that recognizes the uniqueness of each person," said James McCracken, New Jersey's Long-Term Care Ombudsman. "We are pleased that the New Jersey Alliance for Culture Change will help to advance the mission of culture change in the state."

The New Jersey Alliance for Culture Change consists of providers, professionals, organizations and agencies that are committed to serving as a resource and inspiration to those new to the culture change journey, as well as those further along in their transformation. It is focused on providing education and training opportunities to help transform long-term care communities across the state into more viable environments where residents do not just survive, but continue to lead a life of purpose.

For further information about the NJ Alliance for Culture Change, contact Denise Boudreau-Scott, Chairperson at denise@denisebscott.com.

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